



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL

GOVERNOR

HAROLD LEGGETT, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

### For Immediate Release

Nov. 17, 2009

**Contact:** Jean Kelly

**Phone:** 225-219-3966

### **New Orleans area demolition contractor and companies plead guilty**

BATON ROUGE – Today, Charlie Hampton, 55, Hamp’s Enterprises LLC and Hamp’s Construction LLC were sentenced to pay criminal fines totaling \$40,000 and to clean up an illegal dumping site in New Orleans East. The pleas involved criminal wrongdoing in both Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Charlie Hampton and Hamp’s Construction each pled guilty in Orleans Criminal District Court to negligent violations of the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System statutes for illegally disposing of solid waste in a wetland area known as Lot 64. DEQ has made a concerted effort to curtail illegal dumping activities during multiple enforcement operations in New Orleans East. During one of the operations, law enforcement agents within DEQ’s Criminal Investigation Division witnessed trucks owned and operated by Hampton and Hamp’s Construction illegally dumping construction debris in the vacant lot along Almonaster Boulevard in New Orleans East. Since the dumping took place in Orleans Parish, this portion of the case was prosecuted in Orleans Criminal District Court by the Orleans Parish District Attorney’s Office. As part of the plea, Hamp’s Construction will fund the cleanup of Lot 64.

“The Almonaster Corridor in New Orleans East has been a historic dumping site since before DEQ even existed,” said Harold Leggett, DEQ Secretary. “It will take continuing and vigilant efforts by DEQ, local and federal agencies to end illegal dumping and other illegal activities in this area. We at DEQ believe today’s events are a positive sign of agencies working together to continue to revitalize New Orleans East and to curtail illegal activities statewide and are extremely fortunate to partner with environmentally concerned prosecutors such as Orleans Parish District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro and East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney Hillar Moore.”

Additionally, in April 2009 law enforcement agents within the DEQ-CID arrested Hampton for allegedly submitting documents to DEQ that contained false inspection certifications. The false certifications pertained to Asbestos Notification of Demolitions and Renovation Forms for work in the New Orleans area. According to the information gathered throughout the investigation, these inspections, which are required by law, did not occur.

Since the documents were submitted to DEQ in Baton Rouge, this portion of the case was prosecuted in the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District by the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney’s Office. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Hamp’s Enterprises, LLC, pled guilty in the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District court in Baton Rouge to willfully and knowingly violating a filing requirement of the DEQ.

-30-

### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

: PO BOX 4301, BATON ROUGE, LA 70821-4301

P:225-219-3953 F:225-219-3971

WWW.DEQ.LOUISIANA.GOV